THE FRENCH IVBILE:

OR,

THE IOY AND THANKSGIVING of all *France*, to God and their King, for the death of the Marquise *d'Ancre*.

Translated out of the French Copie printed at Paris.

Louis, 13.

LONDON

Printed by *Felix Kyngston* for *Nathanael Newbery*, and are to be sold at his shop vnder S. *Peters* Church in Cornehill, and in Popes-head Alley. 1617.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE READER.

HOnest and well affected Reader, for thy greater contentment, I am bold to present thee with this Iubile of the whole French Nation vpon the death of the Marquise de'Ancre: this ioy hath been manifested on all hands, by all sorts and degrees. The King to shew how acceptable the seruice of Mounsier de Vitry was to him in this execution, hath made him thereupon Marshall of France, in the place of the Marquise d'Ancre: And Mounsier d'Hailler, who accompanied d'Vitry in that action, hath hee caused to be sworne Captaine of his Guard; and many other of the ancient Officers of the Crowne hath he restored to their places, absolutely taking the gouernment to himselfe: and leauing (as he saith) all childish sports to his brother, he hath caused to be set at liberty those little Birds, wherein hee formerly delighted, that so they may haue their libertie as well as himselfe. The Princes (vpon it) are some of them returned to Court, and others expected daily, euery one laying downe

Armes presently, and amongst others the Duke d' Mayen presented the King with the keyes of Soyssons, a towne which he had fortified.

The generall and extraordinary reioycing of the common people cannot be sufficiently expressed; but because I list not to trouble thee (good Reader) with uncertaine and slender reports, I referre thee for the full manifestation of their generall ioy to the discourse following; intreating thee to be perswaded of my honest fidelitie and care in these publications, for I assure thee I am not desirous to shew my selfe both false and foolish in Print. Farewell.

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SIR: Amongst many conformities, betweene your Maiestie, and *Alexander* the Great, these are the most euident: first, that he was the sonne (as you are) of a famous Captaine, and a great King; then, he succeeded him very young, as your Maiestie did to great *Henry*; and after his death the most part of his subiects reuolted, as yours did. And yet aboue all the rest, this is the most particular obseruation, that in his youth some Grecians (and *Demosthenes* amongst the rest) not understanding him well, calld him an infant:

euen as some Frenchmen conceiuing lesse of your Maiestie, haue been so impudent to say as much: yea though hee shewed himselfe to be a man, and the greatest man of the world, euen as your Maiestie giues euident testimonie that you are no lesse.

Sir: It is true, there is this difference, that *Alexander* made his greatnesse appeare to the Grecians, to their losse and preiudice; but you manifest yours to the French, for their benefit and preseruation.

Alexander made it knowne by the losse of their libertie; but you display your greatnes, by the supplantation of a Tyrannie established in your State, by the most insolent, outragious, and insupportable stranger that euer was knowne. Sir: in conclusion, *Alexander* employed his first armes against the Grecians, who then were enemies to the Barbarians; and you haue applied yours, against a barbarous enemie to your royall authoritie: who trampled vnder his feet, the faireſt flowers of your Crowne, and did so mastine-like teare *France* in peeces, as she can neuer sufficiently enough expresse the Tyrannie.

Sir: I will not exclaime vpon a dead body;

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but ſo true it is, I neuer lou'd him when he was aliue, & yet I hated him but as a meere French man, intereſſed onely in the generall oppreſſion of your ſubiects: I grieued together with them to ſee a man of ſmall worth, one of little reputation in any reſpect, not commended for any vertue; a man of no eſteeme or reckoning in the world, eſpecially in France (into which he came without any qualitie or place) to riſe in a moment, to ſuch a redoubted power and greatneſſe, that there was not a gentleman in your Court who adored him not; nor a knee, which did not idolatrouſly bend not only to himſelfe, but to his meaneſt creatures: there was no Officer of your Crowne, that trembled not before him; no Court nor Councell that feared him not, no places which hee ſold not, no royall reuenewes that he did not poll; no Seales nor Keepers of Seales, which he did not depriue or conferre; nor no Territorie within your Eſtate, which hee was not able to raſe, and tumultuate at his owne will and pleaſure.

I haue read the Hiſtory of our Kings from *Faramond*, and obſerv'd the Mayors of the Royall Palace, which in the end diſpoſſeſſed

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their Masters: the Grecians, and Romans haue had but few Tyrants, of whose liues, and histories, I haue not a reasonable vnderstanding and knowledge: but neither in them, nor elsewhere, did I euer reade, or heare of such a like Tyrannie as this: for these were contented to tyrannize ouer the people, whom they had wickedly subdued; but this man being a stranger, and lesse then a subiect in France, did rule, and sway ouer the King, and the people. He was full gorged with abundance in your necessities, he would haue an hundred men at his heeles, when you should haue but ten; and that in your presence, and before the very beames of your Maiestie, where no other lustre should appeare: euen as no starre, nor light appeares in the firmament before the Sunne. Briefly, he so beleaguerd your Maiestie, as there was no entertainment into your seruice, but by his meanes; neither had you a seruant in your house, whom you almost durst receiue, from any other, then his recommendation.

Nay, if he had staied here, it might haue bin tolerable: but to replunge vs into our intestine warres, to open the gates of *Ianus* Temple,

ple,which you ſhut: to kindle againe thoſe furious ciuill flames, which at firſt were ſet on fire by his meanes,and by your Maieſtie happily extinguiſhed: and after the raiſing vp of a dangerous ſtorme among the French, racking of their ſubſtance,and purloining of your owne treaſure, in the view and knowledge of all the world,he further coueted to glut himſelfe with their blood; and yet to vaunt and brag impudently, how hee ſpent his owne goods in your ſeruice,he that in your Fathers dayes was but a baſe companion. And what French-man was there, whoſe heart did not bleed to ſee theſe opprobies? Yet neuertheleſſe, Sir, both great and ſmall, though they were his capitall enemies, and beſides the common apprehenſion of a publike iniurie, daily either in generall or particular wronged,yet they ſwallowed theſe indignities; Heauen reſeruing the glory, and reuenge thereof onely to your Maieſtie.

But thankes bee giuen to God Sir; who hath made you looke ſo circumſpectly into your people,and cleered your ſight in ſo miſtie a ſeaſon; cauſing vs alſo plainly to diſcerne,that the harts of Kings are in his hands,

and that he hath touched yours, causing your Maiestie to vnderstand, that you beare not the hand of Iustice in vaine, seeing you now begin to yeeld vnto your subiects so good a testimonie thereof; when Sir, it was impossible, but that the wishes and prayers of so many good men should at last bee heard: and ascribe not the principal hereof to your selfe, but let God haue his part and hand therein: And his exceeding great, long, and slow Iustice being now wearie, with the patient enduring of so odious a reproch to all France, meant to employ your Maiesty, for the restitution of his owne honour; and to make his Tyrant, together with his owne blood, to discharge the generall substance of your subiects, which hee hath before so greedily deuoured. But who euer saw so vast a gulph? what profunditie can bee imagined, which might not haue been filled with his rapines? Or what insatiable and monstrous famine might not be satisfied with the things that hee did deuoure?

So that (after God) Sir, your Maiestie in one blow hath remedied all these disorders, with so much Iustice, happinesse, and prudence,

dence, as can no more bee desired: You haue made all the world see, that you are truly a King, and that you will raigne and execute Iustice: you haue remoued all pretext and colour of discord from amongst the French, who will now knit and vnite themselues to serue your Maiestie, conuerting the sword they had drawne one against another, to the augmentation of your Crowne and Scepter. Wee hope, Sir, that vnder so valiant, and so iust a King, who is so deere to his subiects, and his subiects to him, wee shall display the ensignes of your glorious armes ouer all the world; that in stead of murthering one another in Ciuill warres, whereof can ensue no other but *Cadmean* victories, and your Maiesty in winning but loose and beweakened, wee shall make strangers to acknowledge, that the Flowers *de-luce* hauing bin buried in obliuion for a time amongst them, shall flourish againe vnder the felicities and fortunes of your Maiestie, more fragrantly, then euer they did vnder the Kings your royall Progenitors, who planted them with the sword in the remotest parts of the earth: that vnder an inuincible Prince we shall also be victorious:

and that the French generositie resuming new vigor and force vnder such a King, shal make you greater then *Henrie* the great; more holy then Saint *Lewys*; more Imperiall then *Philip*; and more victorious and conquering then *Charlemaine*: your Realme shall bee greater, and more redoubtable then euer was his Empire; your Scepter then his sword, and your reputation, then his name.

And because Sir, you haue first satisfied herein the Iustice of God, who not content with the blood and life onely of this common enemie of all your subiects, and your royall selfe, but persecuting him further after his death, hath depriued him of his funerall rites, which your Maiestie granted vnto him: who put into the peoples mindes (without any warrant, or order giuen, nay contrary to a prohibition) to take his carcasse out of the graue, whereof it was vnworthie, and out of the earth, which but yesterday he thought vnworthie to beare him; and to traile it ignominiously along the streets, and hanging it vpon the same Gibbet himselfe had formerly caused to be erected, to burne the miserable remainder of his body, with all the madnesse

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and furie, that an inraged people could vse vpon an infamous Carrion.

And besides this, you haue heerein giuen good satisfaction to men, in reuenging the honour of the French Nation; and in his owne blood quenching so many firebrands, as hee meant to kindle in France. That by the death of such a criminall partie, you haue saued the liues of so many innocēts, stopped the course of so many euils, appeased so many commotions, secured so many townes, brought peace to your Kingdome, and repose to your people, securitie to the Clergie, contentment to the Nobilitie, and authoritie and reputation to Iustice; purchasing by this onely meanes, more loue amongst your subiects, and reputation with strangers, then the victorie of ten fought fields could haue gotten you.

Wee most humblie acknowledge, that this was truly the Lords day, wherein he did, and doth continually great things: and wee beseech him, that as it hath pleased him so sacredly to inspire your Maiesty, he may vouchsafe to continue euer the same fauours towards you; to preserue him, who hath preser-

ued vs, and to multiplie vpon your life, all the benedictions of true happineſſe. And Sir, wee moſt ſincerely proteſt, that as you haue in this action preſerued the Frenchmens blood; ſo they ſhal neuer be more deſirous of any thing, then to ſhead the ſame in your Maieſties ſeruice: that ſeeing you are their Prince as well in effect, as name, and title, no more violent paſſion ſhall euer poſſeſſe them, then to make it euidently appeare that they are your loyall ſubiects; that they will neuer brooke any other Soueraigne, nor neuer ſwarue from the fidelitie they haue ſworne to you. That the Nobilitie will euer recognize you for their head, the people for their Father; the Church for her eldeſt Sonne, Iuſtice for her protector; and all of them ioyntly together, for the beſt King that this day liues.

They wiſh, that your faire deſtinies may ſpin as long a thred of your life, and glory of your Conqueſts, as there be ages in the continuance, or climates in the worlds large extent. That your Maieſtie being a new *Alcides* amongſt the French, may purge the earth of all monſters, reſtore the honours of armes,

augment the eſtimation of learning, puniſh your enemies, and cheriſh your ſubiects. That your proſperities may ſurmount our wiſhes, and your owne deſires: that you may not onely obtaine victory, but poſſeſſe the States of thoſe that would enioy yours.

FINIS.